

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7020

BILL NUMBER: HB 1345

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 30, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Veterans' Affairs Trust Study Group.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Noe

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ GENERAL
☒ DEDICATED
☐ FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Veterans' Affairs Trust Fund and Board to provide assistance to veterans and their families. The bill makes an appropriation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill establishes the Veterans' Affairs Trust Fund to provide assistance to veterans and their families. The Fund consists of: (1) appropriations by the General Assembly, (2) donations, gifts, grants, and bequests, (3) interest and dividends on assets of the Fund, (4) money transferred to the Fund from other funds, and (5) money from any other source deposited in the Fund.

The bill also establishes the Veterans Affairs' Trust Fund Board. The Board consists of 13 members and meets at least quarterly or at the call of the chairperson.

Members of the Board who are not state employees are entitled to a minimum salary per diem of \$35 under IC 4-20-11-2.1(b). Currently, this statute is overridden by Section 15 of the budget bill which provides a higher reimbursement of \$50. It should be noted that should the budget bill dictate a different amount of reimbursement in the future, or not address reimbursement, this reimbursement level could change. Members are also entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties. Members who are state employees but who are not members of the General Assembly are entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties. Members who are members of the General Assembly are entitled to the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowance paid to legislative members of interim study committees established by the Legislative Council. Reimbursement for Board members who are members of the General

Assembly is to be paid from appropriations made to the Legislative Council or the Legislative Services Agency.

The Board is to: (1) manage and develop the Fund and the assets of the Fund; (2) establish a policy for the investment of the assets of the Fund and: (a) consider the immediate needs of veterans and their families to the extent those needs are not addressed by the Military Family Relief Fund, and (b) have as its long-term goal creating a self-sustaining fund that is not dependent on legislative sources of funding; (3) acquire money for the Fund through the solicitation of private or public donations and other revenue producing activities; and (4) perform other tasks consistent with prudent management and development of the Fund. In addition, the Board is required to adopt rules which: (a) establish programs to be funded by the Fund, (b) determine eligibility and application procedures for programs established under (a), and (c) otherwise implement the Fund.

The expenses of administering the Fund are to be paid from the Fund. Money in the Fund does not revert to the state General Fund or any other fund at the end of a fiscal year.

The bill annually appropriates from the state General Fund an amount to the Board sufficient to carry out the purpose of the Fund.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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